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Prolegomena to History. By FREDERICK J. TEGGART. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1916.—133 pp.

Professor Teggart has brought together in this study a wealth of suggestive material bearing upon the conceptions of history and of the methods employed in its production. Most treatises on history deal with this central theme in a more or less casual way ; Professor Teggart has covered the field exhaustively. His list of citations and bibliographical references make the little book an indispensable member of any reference library.

The method of presentation is clear, though the variety of views adduced is sometimes puzzling. After a general survey of the definitions of history, with especial reference to the problem as to whether it is a science or an art—a field in which one may waste much time—there is a chapter on “ The Method of Science ” which in crisp form, by way of quotations, develops the importance of the working hypothesis and the artistic process (the author does not use this term) of building up in the mind relationships similar to but not identical with those of nature. Then the method of history is discussed, again by way of quotations significant of the attitude of historians and critics. The originality of the author himself comes out in his treatment of the question of detachment, of objectivity, which the extreme “ scientific ” wing of historians have carried to the point of devitalizing the past. “ The demand for ‘ impartiality ’ is just the unconscious recognition of the need of ‘ distance ’ in history-writing ”. The conclusion is that

historiography is no mere colorless product of scholarship . . . Mommsen may present the picture of a distant past, but he speaks always with the voice of his own generation and gives utterance to the ideas and aspirations of his own community. The historian, far from being open to condemnation, is true to his calling when he follows his “ natural impulses like the common run of men ”, for he does not write as a scholar but as the spokesman of a people.

This is not the native self-revelation of a *littérateur*, but the sober judgment of a scholar. It is reached after an exceptionally erudite analysis of all that has been said on the subject. The only thing for the historian to do is to read the book.

JAMES T. SHOTWELL.